



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

THE HONORABLE DARRELL ISSA

California 49th District Projects Funded in 2009

Monday, April 27, 2009

Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, in an extension of remarks on the House floor regarding H.R. 105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, I stated that Members need to think of the future of this Nation, rise above their own self-interests, and advocate for the removal of all earmarks from all present and future appropriations bills until we get the federal deficit under control. It is a shame that the Speaker and the Democratic leadership have not been willing to take the initiative and do this on their own.

The Democratic leadership has made no significant effort to perform real earmark reform during this economic crisis. Rather than eliminating costly earmarks, and excess spending, under the leadership of President Obama, the Speaker and Democrats push to implement the largest budget in our nation's history; a \$3.55 trillion budget that will dramatically increase the deficit and likely bankrupt our children's children. The American people are asking that the member's of this body lead us out of this crisis, but it is apparent that the President and the majority leadership can do nothing more than throw money at the wrong problems and tax and lambast those that can create the right solutions. The majority leadership needs to understand that unbridled government spending is not the answer to this crisis, and that earmarks continue to be a problem that plagues this body and not a solution.

Since being reelected to Congress last November, I have not made any earmark project requests. The projects that were included in H.R. 1105 were not done so at my behest in this Congress. As I stated before, I am highly disappointed that, faced with the enormity of the current federal deficit and the unprecedented amount of federal spending that has occurred, the House and Senate majority leadership and Appropriators did not take the opportunity to start showing fiscal restraint by removing Congressional Earmarks from the fiscal year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Had I been approached by the appropriations committee prior to the passage of this bill, I would have asked for the removal of the listed projects

This bill is another example of a missed opportunity to begin the real reform that the American public truly seeks. Members must realize that we have an obligation to the public to work to eliminate earmarks from future appropriations bills until we get deficit spending under control.

Below are two requests that were made in the 110th Congress that the Democratic majority decided to include in this spending bill. While they are projects of merit, I did not seek out support for their inclusion in this Congress.

*Bureau of Reclamation--Water and Related Resources
Rancho California Water District \$50,000*

The bill included funding through the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee for the Rancho California Water District, which will provide for additional recycled water reuse of 16,000 acre feet (AF) per year by converting water district's west side agriculture area to recycled water systems (1 AF equates to approximately 326,000 gallons or enough water to supply two families for one year). It will also increase use of annual seasonal storage in Vail Lake reservoir by 10,000 AF per year by constructing 48-inch pipeline to transport raw water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to store in Vail Lake. It will also convert majority of agricultural delivery system from treated water potable system to recycled and raw water non-potable system by building delivery system for raw water relieving 5,000 AF/year of treated water demands

*GSA
San Diego Courthouse, California
\$110,362,000*

The bill also included funding through the Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee for the San Diego, California Courthouse Construction Project. Construction funds for the San Diego courthouse project were originally appropriated, as requested by the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Judicial Conference of the United States, in FY 2006. The San Diego Courthouse is a critical project for the region considering that the existing courthouse is an extremely busy border court, which processes hundreds of prisoners on a daily basis. The additional funds would be used to expedite completion of this project.